

A NEW SALTICID SPIDER FROM INDIA¹

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(With nine text-figures)

Key words: Salticid spider, *Myrmarachne ludhianaensis* sp. nov., India.

A new species of spider *Myrmarachne ludhianaensis* sp. nov. of the family Salticidae is described and illustrated, and *M. laetus* Thorell has been recorded for the first time from Punjab State.

INTRODUCTION

Spiders of the family Salticidae, particularly of the genus *Myrmarachne* MacLeay, are inadequately known from the Indian region. Even the classic work of Pocock (1900) on Indian spiders makes no mention of this family.

One of the earliest contributions on Indian *Myrmarachne* was by Narayan (1915). Tikader (1972) in his Catalogue and Bibliography of Spider Fauna of India listed ten species of *Myrmarachne* from India. Subsequently (Tikader 1973), he recorded five species and of these, four were new. Thereafter, Mittal and Bradoo (1977) and Bradoo (1980) added three new species to the existing fauna and Sadana (1983) made the first record of *Myrmarachne laetus* from Jammu and Kashmir State.

During a survey of spiders predaceous on insect pests of fruit trees, we came across two species of *Myrmarachne*, one of which is new and described here as *M. ludhianaensis*. The other, *M. laetus* Thorell 1895, is already known from E. and S. India and Myanmar and collected for the first time from Punjab State. The total number of known species of the genus *Myrmarachne*, including *M. ludhianaensis*, is now nineteen.

The type specimens will be deposited in the collection of the Zoological Survey of India, Calcutta.

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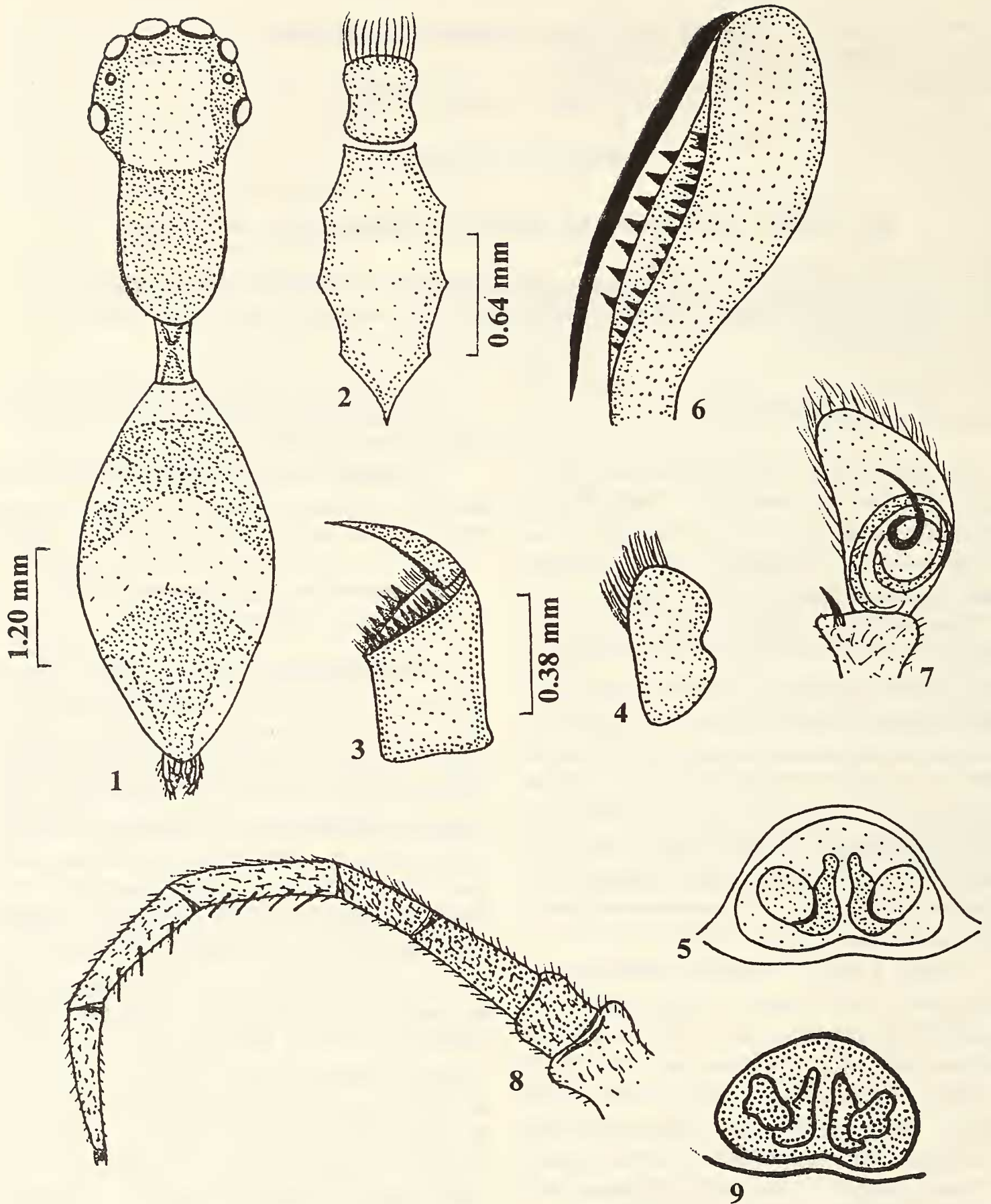
All measurements given in the description of species are in mm.

The abbreviations for different types of eyes are: AM- anterior median, AL- anterior lateral, PM- posterior median and PL- posterior lateral.

Myrmarachne ludhianaensis sp. nov.

(Figs. 1-9)

Cephalothorax: Female carapace length 2.30, greatest width 1.02; cephalic region brown with a broad dark band in the ocular region; almost as long as wide, high and flat, distinctly separated from the thoracic region by a deep transverse cephalic groove; thoracic region black, almost squarish, high anteriorly, slopes down posteriorly. Eyes: pearly white, encircled by black rims, arranged in two rows, anterior row slightly recurved, posterior row strongly recurved, ocular area wider than long, occupying less than half the length of cephalothorax. Diameter of eyes: AM=0.28, AL=0.13, PM=0.04, PL=0.14, Mutual distance between eyes: AM-AM=0.06, AL-AL=0.83, AM-AL=0.09, PM-PM=0.08, PL-PL=0.98, PM-PL=0.19, AM-PM=0.35, AL-PL=0.47. Chelicerae (Fig. 3): length 0.49, width 0.29, brown, promargin with five and retro-margin with nine teeth, both margins with well developed scopulae. Labium (Fig. 2): length 0.41, width 0.33, brownish black, elongate, notched in the middle, anterior margin with black hair. Maxillary lobes (Fig. 4): length 0.45, width 0.30, yellowish brown, inner margin with scopula of



Figs. 1-9. *Myrmarachne ludhianaensis* sp. nov.: 1. Dorsal view of female (legs omitted); 2. Ventral view of labium and sternum; 3. Inner view of chelicera of female; 4. Inner view of maxillary lobe; 5. Ventral view of epigynum; 6. Inner view of chelicera of male; 7. Palpal organ; 8. Lateral view of second leg; 9. Inner (dorsal) view of epigynum.

dark brown hair. Sternum (Fig. 2): length 1.35 and width 0.46, brown, nearly three times as long as broad, produced between coxae. Pedipalpal tibia and tarsus flattened into an oar-like structure. Legs: long, thin, clothed with fine hair, yellow with trochanter, femur and patella brownish yellow, second and third coxae separated by a space, fourth coxae contiguous. The second pairs of legs distinctive in having four and three pairs of spines on the ventral side of their tibiae and metatarsi, respectively. Pedicel visible from above, elongate, adding to the length of the body. Length of legs: I-7.36, II-7.52, III- 8.22, IV-9.25.

Abdomen: Length 2.96, broadest width 1.08, yellowish with a dark band in the anterior half, band bifurcated towards the lateral sides, posterior half with a kite-shaped band. Venter yellowish with a broad, brown median band, sides black. Epigynum as in Figs. 5 and 9.

Male carapace length 1.98 and greatest width 0.83, resembles female in all respects except in having very long chelicerae and fangs (Fig. 6); promargin of cheliceral furrow with seven and retromargin with fifteen teeth. Palpal organ with cup-shaped cymbium, embolus small, pointed and sickle-shaped, located anteriorly.

Male abdomen: length 2.30, greatest width 0.92, brown with a transverse depression on the anterior half. Resembles female in other characteristics. Posterior spinnerets longer and more slender than anterior ones.

Total length: female 6.1 and male 5.5

Holotype: female, ex. pear, 17.xii.1992, Ludhiana, coll. Aarti.

Allotype: male, collection data same as Holotype.

Paratype: female, ex. grapevine, 7.v.1993, Ludhiana, coll. Aarti.

Distribution: Known from type locality.

Etymology: The new species is named after the type locality.

Remarks: This species resembles *M. bengalensis* Tikader slightly, but differs as follows:

Legs are yellowish and without any markings, but in *M. bengalensis* legs I and II are pale with conspicuous longitudinal deep brown markings and legs III and IV are deep brown. Besides, the leg formula in the new species is 4321, whereas in *M. bengalensis* it is 4132. Further, the basal segment of chelicera is cylindrical and the structure of epigynum and pattern on the abdomen is also different. It also differs distinctly from *M. chandigarhensis* Mittal and Bradoo (1977), *M. cheliceratus* (Mittal and Bradoo 1977) and *M. platypalpus* (Bradoo 1980) reported from northern India.

Myrmarachne laetus Thorell

Myrmarachne laetus Thorell, 1895, Spiders of Burma p. 320.

Material examined: 1 female, 2 males, ex. peach, 10.ix.1995 and 1 female, 1 male, ex. citrus, 5.ii.1996, Ludhiana, coll. G.L. Sadana.

Distribution: INDIA: Madras, Calcutta, Nicobar Islands, Jammu and Kashmir and Punjab. BURMA (Myanmar).

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NEW DESCRIPTIONS

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